CLAIMS

1. A refrigerator comprising ion generating means, wherein positive and negative ions are released into a living space outside the refrigerator.

2. The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein the positive and negative ions are released to outside a door of a storage compartment of the refrigerator.

3. The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein the ion generating means is built as a unit by being housed inside a casing unit.

4. The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein an air inlet of the ion generating means has an opening pointing downward.

5. The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein the ion generating means is built into and thereby integrated into a control panel for making various settings, for example, for adjustment of a temperature inside a storage compartment.

6. The refrigerator according to claim 3, wherein the ion generating means is built as a unit including a blower and an ion generating apparatus housed inside a casing unit.

7. The refrigerator according to claim 5, wherein an air outlet of the ion generating means is located in a front face of the control panel.

8. The refrigerator according to claim 7, wherein an air inlet of the casing unit is located in a bottom face of the control panel and above a recess formed, as a door handle for the storage compartment, below the control panel.

9. The refrigerator according to claim 8, wherein a dustproof filter is detachably attached to the air inlet of the ion generating means.

10. The refrigerator according to claim 3, wherein the casing unit is provided with water damage preventing means for preventing liquid such as water that has entered the casing unit from reaching the ion generating apparatus.

11. The refrigerator according to claim 10, wherein the water damage preventing means is realized with the air inlet formed in the casing unit and a drain hole formed separately from the air outlet.

12. The refrigerator according to claim 11, wherein a drain hole is formed in a bottom portion of the control panel so as to correspond to the drain hole formed in the casing unit.

13. The refrigerator according to claim 10, wherein a water damage preventing rib is formed so as to protrude upward from a bottom portion of the casing unit in an air passage between the air outlet formed in the casing unit and the ion generating apparatus.

14. The refrigerator according to claim 7, wherein the control panel is located at a

height of 800 mm to 1 100 mm from a floor surface of a body of the refrigerator.

15. The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein the ion generating means is located in a ceiling portion of a body of the refrigerator.

16. The refrigerator according to claim 15, wherein in the ceiling portion of the body of the refrigerator is provided a box-shaped member composed of a fitting member for fitting a door hinge for a topmost storage compartment of the refrigerator and a cover for covering the fitting member, and the ion generating means is housed inside the box-shaped member.

17. The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein an air outlet of the ion generating means is formed in a front face of the refrigerator.

18. The refrigerator according to claim 16, wherein in a front bottom portion of the box-shaped member is formed a recess, and an air inlet of the ion generating means is formed in a bottom face of the box-shaped member so as to face the recess.